

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/804,345

Examiner

PAUL T. CHIN

Applicant(s)

MCMULLAN, JAMES

Art Unit

3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/22/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher A. Mitchell on September 18, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows: claims 17-19 have been cancelled and claim 20 has been amended.

Claims 17-19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended) A hand-held device for gripping objects positioned beyond arm's length, comprising:

a first pair of jaws movable relative to each other between an unclamped position and a fully clamped position;

a handle spaced apart from said pair of jaws by a central portion, said handle including a trigger connected to said pair of jaws by a linkage, whereby actuation of said trigger is operative to selectively position said pair of jaws between the fully opened and fully closed positions thereof; and

wherein each of the pair of jaws includes a gripping portion freely removably connected thereto,

wherein each of the pair of jaws includes an end effector having a bore in which the gripping portion is freely removably seated,

wherein each of the gripping portions and bores are provided with complimentary male and female interlocking portions, whereby the gripping portions may each be securely freely removably seated in place within each of the bores, and

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wherein each gripping portion comprises an upper part having opposite gripping and seating surfaces, and a stem part extending axially from the upper part, the stem part including at least one radially extending tab, and wherein further each of the bores is dimensioned to receive therein the stem part, including the tab, each bore opening adjacent an upper surface opposing the seating surface of the gripping portion upper part, and each bore further communicating with a radiused slot dimensioned to receive therein the tab of the stem part to thereby permit rotational movement of the gripping portion relative to the jaw.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Hsu alone or Hsu in view of Voellmer does not show or suggest the structural limitations "the gripping portion having an upper part which has an opposite gripping and seating surfaces, a stem part extending axially from the upper part, including at least one radially extending tab, and wherein further each of the bores is dimensioned to receive therein the stem part, including the tab, each bore opening adjacent an upper surface opposing the seating surface of the gripping portion upper part, and each bore further communicating with a radiused slot dimensioned to receive therein the tab of the stem part to thereby permit rotational movement of the gripping portion relative to the jaw" in combination with other structural limitations, nor the linkage being a resilient linkage so that the trigger can be moved into the at least first lock position thereof even when a gripped object prevents the at least pair of jaws from closing further towards the first partially closed position in combination with other structural limitations. Note that figures 3 and 5 of Voellmer's gripper show a handle (17,72) of an object, not a gripping pad (col. 3, lines 51-62) and col. 4, lines 7-17).

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL T. CHIN whose telephone number is (571) 272-6922. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THURS (7:30 -6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saul Rodriguez can be reached on (571) 272-7097. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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